Social and Personal.

Love Triumphant.

Helen's lips are drifting dust; llion is consumed with rust; All the galicons of Greece, Drink the ocean's dreamless peace; Lost was Solomon's purple show Lost was Solomon's purious allow Restless centuries ago; Stately empires wax and wane— Babylon, Barbary, and Spain; Only one thing, undefaced, Lasts, though all the worlds lie waste And the heavens are overturned, —Dear, how long ago we learned!

There's a sight that blinds the sun. There's a sight that blinds the sun. Sound that lives when sounds are de Music that robukes the birds. Language lovelier than words, Hue and scent that shame the rose, Wine no earthly vineyard knows, Silonce stiller than the shore Swept by Charon's stealthy oar, Ocean more divinely free Than Pacific's boundless sea; Ye who love have learned it true.—Dear, how long ago we knew!

Mrs. Clothier's Exhibit.

Mrs. Clothier's Exhibit.

Mrs. Clothier's Exhibit.

Mrs. John D. Clothier, assisted by several of her friends, will give an exhibit of her art work in decorative porcelain at her stdulo, No. 200 West Grace Street, from 4 to 7, P. M. to-day.

The exhibit will display examples of painting in naturalistic, conventional and figure designs. The studio will be charmingly decorated in autumn leaves and chrysanthemums, and callers will be afforded the fullest opportunity of inspecting a number of very choice specimens of Mrs. Clothier's handleraft. She spent several months recently in study for conventional work under Mrs. K. E. Cherry, of St. Louis, who has been accorded space in the Fine Arts building at the Exposition. Mrs. Clothier's study received special mention and praise from Mrs. Cherry and other art critics. She has been with Mrs. Vance Phillips, of New York for figure painting, and has taken lessons in naturalistic work from Bischoff, Miss M. Mason and Mrs. Sara Wood Safford, of New York.

Miss Serpell's Engagement.

Miss Serpell's Engagement.

The engagement of Miss Neille Serpell, of Norfolk, the daughter of Mr. G. M. Serpell general superintendent of the The engagement of also very the control of Norfolk, the daughter of Mr. G. M. Serpell, general superintendent of the Atlantic Coast Line, to Major S. Heth Tyler, son of former Governor J. Hoge Tyler, has just been announced and causes more than an ordinary ripple of interest in Norfolk and Richmond society circles. Miss Serpell and her sister were at the Richmond Horse Show, where they occupied boes with friends for several evenings.

The announcement was foreshadowed by the fact that the Misses Serpell were guests of honor not long ago, at a house party given by the ex-Governor at his country home near Pulaski, where Major Heth Tyler was also one of the party. The wedding will take place November 16th.

Annual Meeting A. P. V. A. Annual Meeting A. P. V. A.
The postponed annual meeting of the
Association for the Preservation of Vicginia Antiquities will be held Tuesday,
November 15th, at 8 P. M., in the rooms
of the Virginia Historical Society, No.
70; East Pranklin Street,
The above notice has been sent to
every member of the association in
Richmond, and to every director of a
branch.

Bazaar for Norfolk Monument.

Bazzar for Norfolk Monument.
The Norfolk Ledger of Thursday has
the following mention of the Confederate
Bazzar to be held in Norfolk, in which
Richmond Daughters of the Confederacy
are interested. The Ledger says:
Pickett-Buchanan Chapter, Daughters
of the Confederacy, met this morning and
heard the reports from the delegates to
the Petersburg convention, and also received a report from the Committee on
Confederate Bazzar, which is soon to be
held for the benefit of the Confederate
monument. The meting was largely atmonument. The meting was largely at-tended and the ladies manifested much terest in both reports. It was decided hold the bazaar at Armory Hall and committee was appointed to fix the date, which committee subsequently decided upon the last week in the present month. The ladies feel greatly en-couraged as to the bagaar, having many promises of assistance, and they are ex-pecting to realize a large sum toward the completion of the Norfolk monument. Pickett-Buchanan Camp, C. V., has wriften them that the cap can be counted on for a most earnest and active supalso been received from various chapters of the U. D. C. in the South pledging as-sistance to the enterprise.

Deep Run Hunt Club Meet.

The meet of the Deep Run Hunt Club at Bloomingdale 4 P. M. this afternoon at Bloomingdale 4 P. A. this atternoom will be followed by a reception at the club house, the beginning of a series, making a delightful feature in the social life of Richmond and during the autumn, winter and spring.

The club parlors will be decorated with palms, roses and chrysanthemums. The ladies invited to act on the reception compared to the company of the company of the company of the club with the company of the company of the club will be caused by a reception of the club will be caused by a reception of the club will be caused by a reception at the club will be caused by a reception at the club will be caused by a reception of the club will be caused by a reception of the club will be caused by a reception of the club will be caused by a reception at the club will be caused by a reception of the club will

ladies invited to act on the reception committee for the afternoon are: Mrs. C. Pinckney, Mrs. Joseph E. Willard, Mrs. Thomas N. Carter, Mrs. Andrew Chris.



POEMS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Whatever your occupation may be, and however crowded your hours with affairs, do not fail to secure at least a few minutes every day for refreshment of your inner life with a bit of nearly - Perfector Charles Filed Not better the control of the c bit of poetry .-- Professor Charles Ellot Norton.

SLEEP.

By EL'ZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

The portrait, autograph and biographical sketch of Mrs. Browning have already appeared in this series.

F all the thoughts of God that are Borne inward unto souls afar, Among the psalmist's music deep, Now tell me if that any is, For gift or grace, surpassing this-"He giveth his beloved sleep"?

What would we give to our beloved? The hero's heart, to be unmoved-The poet's star tuned harp, to sweep-The patriot's voice, to teach and rouse-The monarch's crown, to light the brows? "He giveth his beloved sleep."

What do we give to our beloved? A little faith, all undisproved-A little dust to overweep, And bitter memories, to make The whole earth blasted for our sake, "He give'h his beloved sleep."

"Sleep soft, beloved!" we sometimes say, But have no tune to charm away Sad dreams that through the eyelids creep; But never doleful dream again Shall break the happy slumber when "He giveth his beloved sleep."

O earth, so full of dreary noise! O men, with wailing in your voice! O delved gold, the wailer's heap! O strife, O curse, that o'er it fall! God strikes a silence through you all, And "giveth his beloved sleep."

His dews drop mutely on the hill, His cloud above it saileth still. Though on its slope men sow and reap; More softly than the dew is shed, Or cloud is floated overhead, "He giveth his beloved sleep."

For me, my heart, that erst did go Most like a tired child at a show, That sees through tears the mummers leap, Would now its wearied vision close, Would childlike on his love repose Who "giveth his beloved sleep!"

This series began in The Times-Dispatch Sunday, October 11, 1903. One is published each day.

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

Miss Nellie Davenport, Miss Mamie Davenport, Miss Lulle Whitlock, Miss Mary McD. Beirne and Miss Sophie White.

Other November meets are scheduled for the 12th, at the Reservoir; for the 18th, at Chantilly, and for the 26th, at the Kennels, the hour of meeting in each instance being 4 P. M. Special arrangements are in view for Thanksgiving, which is always a gala occasion at the club. The master and the hunt committee make an earnest appeal to members to meet promptly and another for them to turn out in pink on regular hunt days. Plnk coated huntsmen are quite as irresistible in the drawing room as the proverbial military man, so the last favor asked will be more easily granted than many another which involves less by way of compensation.

Miss Mary Johnston, the celebrated Virging anovelist. Miss Blair spoke on "The Development of Shakespeare's Genius." Those present were: Dr. and Mirs. R. M. Wiley, Professor and Mrs. W. F. Morehead, Dr. F. V. A. Smith, Mrs. Ad. G. McClung, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Stearnes, Professor and Mrs. W. F. Morehead, Dr. F. V. N. Painter, Mrs. R. C. Stearnes, Mig. Townsend, of Cleveland, O. Mrs. Margie Evans, Misses strong, Kate Evans, Emma and Frances (Armstrong, Bessle Stearnes, Eugenia Griffin, Sadie Bowles, Miss Claiborne, of Richmond; Professor C. B. Cannaday.

Personal Mention.

Mr. Robert L. M. Scott. formerly a member of the editorial staff of the by way of compensation.

Miss Blair's Address.

The Times-Register-Sentinel of Salem, Va., makes the following mention of an address given before the Thursday Club of that city by Miss Maria Blair, who spent some weeks there and has since returned to Richmond. This is the men-

The Thursday Club held its regular meeting last week at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Armstrong on Broad

CUT THIS OUT AND KEEP IT.

"My friend," answered the palmer,

not all the money that is in this coun-

"not all the money that is in this country could pay a just price for these wares of mine. This nail," he continued, pulling off his hat and turning up his sightless orbs, "is one of those wherewith man's salvation was secured. I had it, together with this piece of the true rood, from the five-and-twentleth descendant of Joseph of Arimathen, who still lives in Jerusalem alive and well, though latterly much afflicted by boils, Aye, you may well cross yourselves, and

Aye, you may well cross yourselves, and I beg that you will not breathe upon it or touch it with your fingers."

"And the wood and stone, holy father?" asked Alleyne, with bated breath, as he stared awe-struck at his precious relies. "This cantle of wood is from the true cross this other from Nowh his ark and

"This cantle of wood is from the true cross, this other from Noah his ark, and the third is from the door-post of the temple of the wise King Solomon. This stone was thrown at the sainted Stephen, and the other two are from the Tower of Babel. Here, too, is part of Aaron's rod, and a lock of hair from Elisha the prophet."
"But father" worth.

"But, father," quoth Alleyne, "the holy Ellsha was bald, which brought down upon him the revilements of the wicked children."

"It is very true that he had not much hair,' said the palmer quickly, "and it is this which makes this relic so ex-

is this which makes this relic so exceedingly precious. Take now your choice of these, my worthy gentlemen, and paysuch a price as your consciences will suffer you to offer; for I am not a chapman nor a huckster, and I would never part with them, did I not know that I am very near to my reward." "Aylward," said Alleyne excitedly, "this is such a chance as few folk have twice in one life. The nail I must have, and I will give it to the Abbey of Beaulteu, so that all the folk in England may go thither to wonder and to pray,"

tian, Jr., Mrs. James W. Allison and Mrs. Alexander.

Assisting these ladies will be the following bevy of charming young girls: Miss Nellic Davenport, Miss Mamie Davenport, Miss Mamie Davenport, Miss Lulie Whitlock, Miss Mary Johnston, the celebrated Virginia novelist. Miss Bair spoke on "The Development of Shakespear's Genlius."

Other Name W. Allison and Street. The members of the club were entertained with an interesting address by Miss Maria Blair, of Richmond, who for the past year has been traveling with Miss Mary Johnston, the celebrated Virginia novelist. Miss Blair spoke on "The Development of Shakespear's Genlius."

Those present were: Dr. and Mrs. R. M.

Mr. Robert L. M. Scott, formerly a member of the editorial staff of the Tives-Dispatch, who has been connected with the Southern Bell Telephone Company, at Atlan'a, Ga., for some months, has been transferred from Atlanta to Norfolk, Va., as his many Richmond and Virginia friends will be glad to know.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sheppard Royster, who is Mery Mrs. Mrs. Frank Sheppard Royster of Norfolk, Va., have issued invitations to a reception to be given on Thursday evening, the 10th of November, at half after Sofclock, at their res dence, No. 10th Colonial Avenue. This will be given in honor of Miss Mary Royster, who is Monday night. The play was seen here

"Down, pride, down!" cried the pil-

I not been myself then to take this I not been my self then to take this sorry sum which is offered me for that

one of this season's most attractive debu-tantes. Miss Royster has many friends in Richmond.

Admiral W. C. Wise, of the United States navy, who will be retired next Tuesday, is now at Old Point with his family.

Judge and Mrs. M. L. Dure have sent out cards to the marriage of their daughter. Don. to Mr. William Jennings Atwood. The wedding will take place Wednesday afternoon. November 16th, at 5 o'clock. In Freemason Street Baptist Chirch, Nosroik, Va. Mr. and Mrs. Alwood will be at home after December 1st at the Monticelle Hotel.

Dr. Fielding L. Ashton is the guest of his brothers at "Waterloo," Va.

Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas Carson have issued invitations to the marriage of their daughter, Mary Estelle, to Mr. Lemuel Branch. The weeding will occur on Wednesday evening, the 16th of November, at 7:39 o'clock. In Baltimore. The bride and groom will be at home after December 1st in Newport News.

Mrs. Lyon G. Tyler, wife of the president of William and Mary College, who is visiting relatives in Charlottesville, Va., will spend some time in Richmond before returning home.

Miss Lena Kellog and Miss Virgie Agnew, of this city, are the guests of friends in Newport News, Va.

Governor A. J. Montague will speak at Leesburg, Va. November 10th, before the Loudoun County Roadside Tree Association. This is composed altogether of women, and was founded by Mrs. W. C. Eustis, daughter of former Governor Levi P. Morton, of New York. The object of the association is to beautify the roadside and every member is pledged to plant at least one tree each year.

The Rev. Thomas G. Faulkner and Mrs. Faulkner will go from Clifton Forge, Va., to Silver Springs parish, near Washington where Mr. Faulkner has accepted charge. They are now visiting Mrs. Faulkner's relatives at Boydton, Va.

Miss Julia Bidgood is visiting Miss Loulio Hudgins in Portsmouth, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Snyder, who were married in Charle county, Va., in 1831, celebrated the "tleth anniversary of their wedding on Wednesday night last at their home in Jefferson county, near Surmit Point. Their five children, three grandchildren were present, and the coming of three of the bridesmaids and one groomsman, who took part in the wedding festivities of a half century ago, rendered last Wednesday's celebration most interesting. teresting.

teresting.

The Rev. Dr. James P. Smith will officiate at the wedding of Miss Rosalle Cowhord to Dr. Edgar R. Williams, of West Virginia, which will take place in Union Theological Seminary Chapel, November 22d, at 6 o'clock P. M. Dr. Williams is a graduate in the class of 1904 of the University College of Medicine.



That a large majority of the theatregoing public prefer that class of entertainment which furnishes them with a succession of good hearty laughs to the plays of the sombre kind, where they are called upon to sit for hours and see depicted the troubles of people in whom they had no previous interest, is being conclusively proved by the success of that furnilest of refined farcical comedies, "Alice, Where Art Thou?" The company is a large and carefully selected one, and includes among its principals such well known players as Misses Grace Merritt, Lungtry Ashton, Nellie M. Grant, Elizabeth Bruce, Elizabeth Hunter, Bertha Graham; Messrs. C. M. Paul, Fred Harris, Stanley Murphy, J. A. Worthley, Joseph Damery, T. Willis Evans, Charles Hillman and others, "Alice, Where Art Thou?" will be presented at the Academy on Monday evening.

Warde and Kidder.

Warde and Kidder.

Warde and Kidder.

Something in the way of spectacular drama of colossal proportions may be looked for in the new play, "Salammbo," in which Frederick Warde and Kathryn Kidder will appear here on Tuessay, matinee and evening. The production, which is the most sumptuous that has yet been exploited by managers Wagenhals and Kemper, is a series of ponderous glittering pictures and tableaux revealing the pomp and glory that belonged to ancient Carthage, and revivifying a people but little known, even to the historian. Forceful use is made of the religious superstitions and the strenuous passions of this old time republic which at the period in which the play is laid dictated terms to the rest of the world. Among the large supporting company are Wadsworth Harris, Thomas Cooke, Dudley Kellard and Ina Brooks.

Why He Divorced Her.

If one desire to know what were the reasons for wriling the play now running at the Bijou, "Why He Divorced Her," just two opportunities are offered-this afternoon and to-night. The play appeals to people who can and do appreciate the sensational in stage work.

Norfolk and Western Rallway, has just issued his statement of earnings and expenses of that system for the month of September and for the first quarter of the new fiscal year beginning July 1st. The statement shows the total earnings of the road for September to be \$2,012.036.25, an increase of \$125,974.25, or seven per cent. The increase was in freight earnings, passenger earnings showing a small decrease. Operating expenses during the month were \$1.142,555.83, an increase of \$67,190.26 over September, 1903. The chief items in the increase are those for maintenance of equipment and conducting transportation. Net earnings for the month were \$870,279.42, an increase of \$61,814.26 over September last year. The surplus for the month increased \$13,155.03.

Mr. J. C. Cassell, assistant to President

Mr. J. C. Cassell, assistant to President L. E. Johnson, of the Norfolk and Western Railway, and prior to that superintendent of the system, has resigned that position to go into a business enterprise. His position will be abolished. Mr. Cassell's rise in the railway world has been steady and sure.

Another Norfolk and Western official Another Nortok and western tondar change just announced is the appointment of F. H. LeBaume to be industrial and agricultural agent to succeed Mr. Paul Schezer, resigned. Mr. Scherer has held this position for some years.

Chief Clerk M. T. Spicer, in the office of President George W. Stevens, of the Chea-apeake and Ohio Rallway, has returned from St. Louis, where he attended the World's Fair.

Mr. James Ker, Jr., for many years an agent of the Chesapeako and Onlo Rall-way at Staunton, and later at Clifton Forge, has resigned that position to accept that of city passenger agent of the Seaboard Alr Line at Charlotte, N. C., succeeding M. L. Herman, resigned.

Mr. J. E. Hobson, chief clerk in the stationery department of the Southern Railway, has been made stationer, succeeding Mr. W. M. Lockwood, transferred to Washington.

NOVEMBER 5TH INWORLD'S HISTORY

Gunpowder plot discovered; a conspiracy for blowing up the English Parliament, headed by Catesby. In the cellar were found forty barrels of

James Oglethorpe, with several colonists, embarked for Georgia. 1774.

The trade mark of the National groots's shell has done wonders in educatu.

The variety of the product of the National groots's shell has done wonders in educatu.

It has shown them the only absolutely sure we products in a good clean, fresh condition—just as they he. dust, no odors, no handling.

This trade mark always appears in red and white on each each groots in a good clean, fresh condition—just as they he. dust, no odors, no handling.

This trade mark always appears in red and white on each each groots in the constitution of the National Biscuit Company and ever stands for the highest quality of baking.

For example try packages of Social Tea Biscuit and Opsterattes

NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

ONLY AND THE CHARGE THE COMPANY

ONLY AND THE COMPANY

ONLY A The militia of Virginia assembled at Fort Gower, under Lord Dunmore, the royal governor, declared their determination to support their countrymen, when called upon, and not the king, if he proceeded to execute the late obnoxious laws by force.

The America, a seventy-four gun ship, built at Portsmouth, N. H., by order of Consess, was launched. This was the first line of battleship ever built in America.

1816. Gouverneur Morris, an American statesman and orator, died at his seat of Morrisiana, N. Y.

1840.

George R. T. Hewes, one of the persons who assisted in throwing the overboard in Boston harbor in the beginning of the Revolution, died at German Flats, aged 106.

1854. By cholera, which prevailed this season, the number of deaths up to this day were: In New York, 2,425; in Philadelphia, 575; in Boston, 265;

1855.

in Pittsburg, 600. Battle at the River Ingour; Omar Pasha, with 20,000 Turks, defeated 10.000 Russians.

1858. Edward Ward Carmack, United States senator of Tennessee, born.

1862. Battle near Nashville. Confederates were repulsed.

Chattanooga bombarded for several days about this time. General Averill defeated the Confederates at Lewisburg, Va., capturing a large amount of arms, wagons and other property.

Grant elected President.

Tschaikowsky, famous Russian composer and musician, died.

.

Railway, has been made stationer, succeeding Mr. W. M. Lockwood, transferred to Washington.

"A standy business to St. Louis and the Exposition is still moving," said District on the James River disvision; from the

Passenger Agent W. O. Warthen, of the Chosapeake and Onio Railway, yesterday. "It is not up to the September record, but it is good and is expected to continue until tis good and is expected to continue until the latter part of the month."

Buckingham branch and intermediate points: from Williamsburg and intermediate of the points on the western main line.

Among the visiting railway traffic men in the city yeaterday were Mr. J. A. Hall, traveling freight agent of the Northern Pacific, and Mr. R. K. Cross, traveling freight agent of the same line, and Mr. Natban Well, traveling passenger agent of the Southeastern District, Pennsylvania Railroad. . . .

President George W. Stevens and General Manager C. E. Doyle, of the Chesapeake and Ohlo Rallway, are both absent from the city in Cincinnati and other Western points. They will probably be absent from this city the rest of the week.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 2tth, Southern Railway will operate special train from Chapel Hill, Durham, etc., it Richmond, bringing the University of North Carolina foot-ball team and their friends who come to see the game on that day between the University of North Carolina and University of Virginia foot-ball

Series of Services.

Rev. Dr. A. C. Barron, the distinguished pastor and preacher of Charlotte, N. C., will be in the city next week to assist Dr. W. R. L. Smith, of the Second Baptist Church, in a series of meetings. Dr. Barron has had a long and very successful career in evangelistic work. The public will enjoy his ministry. These services will begin on Wednesday evening. November 9th.

Runaway Boy Found Here.

On request from Norfolk, the Detective Department yesterday found and detained a fifteen-year-old boy from Norfolk, named John L. Fruushaw. The boy ran away from his home to come here to work. His father wired the chief of police he would be here to-day for his son.

A HAPPY HOME

is one where health abounds. With impure blood there cannot be good health. With a disordered LIVER there cannot be good blood.

its natural action.

A healthy LIVER means pure Pure blood means health, Health means happiness.

YOU WILL WANT TO READ THIS you was taken from my nail-box, and STORY LATER, IF NOT NOW

you was taken from my nan-oox, and as to the wood and the stones, you will see a heap of both outside from which he hath filled his scrip."
"Nay, nay," cried Alleyne, "this was a holy man who had journeyed to Jerusalem, and acquired a dropsy by running from the house of Pilate to the Mount of Olives." 'I know not about that," said the smith;

"I know not about that," said the smith; "but I know that a rean with a gray palmer's hat and gown was here no very long time ago, and that he sat on yonder stump and ate a cold pullet and drank a flask of wine. Then he begged from me one of my nalls, and filling his serip with stone, he went upon his way. Look at these nails, and see if they are not the same as that which he has sold you." "And I will have the stone from the temple, cried Hordie John. "What would not my old mother give to have it hung over her bed?" over her bed?"
"And I will have Aaron's rod," quoth Aylward. "I have but five florins in the world, and here are four of them,"
"Here are three more," said John.
"And here are five more," added Alleyne. "Holy father, I hanu you twelve florins, which is all that we can give, though we well know how poor a pay it is for the wondrous things which you sell us."

you."
"Now may God save us!" cried Alleyne, all aghast. "Is there no end then to the wickedness of human kind? He so humble, so aged, so loth to take our money—and yet a villain and a cheat. Whom can we trust or believe in?"
"I will after him." said Aylward, flinging himself into the saddle. "Come, Alleyne, we may catch him ere John's horse be shod."
Away they galloped together, and ere long they saw the old grey palmer walking slowly along in front of them. He turned, however, at the sound of their hoofs, and it was clear that his blindness was a cheat like, all the rest of him, for he ran swiftly through a field and so into a wood, where none could follow him. They hurled their relies after him, and so rode back to the blacksmith's the poorer both in pocket and in faith.

CHAPTER XXVII.

I not been myself then to take this in then my self then to take this sorry sum which is offered me for that which has cost me the labors of a life. Give me the dross! Here are the precious relics, and, oh. I pray you that you handle them softly and with reverence, clse had I rather left my unworthy bones here by the wayside."

With doffed caps and eager hands, the comrades took their new and precious possessions, and precised onwards upon their journey, leaving the aged palmer still seat-d under the cherry-tree. They rode in silence, each with his treasure in his hand, glancing at it from time to time, and scarce able to believe that chance had made them sole owners of relies of such holiness and worth that every a abbey and church in Christendom would have bid eagerly for their possession. So they journey, full of his good fortune, John's horse cast a shee, and they were a glad to find a wayside smith who might set the matter to rights. To him Ayiward narrated the good hap which had befallen them: but the smith, when his eyes lit upon the relics, leaned up against be laid to find a wayside, with his hand to his side, until the relics, leaned up against be set in matter to rights. To him Ayiward narrated the good hap which had befallen them: but the smith, when his eyes lit upon the relics, leaned up against be laid to find a wayside, with his hand to his side, until the tears hopped down his sooty cheeks.

"Why, master," quoth he, "this man is a coquillart, or seller of false relice, knight drew forth a cittern, upon which is the internal population."

I a sell the forting the form their hoofs, and if was clear that his blind-need the fund. I hoofs, and it was clear that his blind-need that he shall so flow him, for he ran swiftly through a field whim, for he ran swiftly through a field whim, for he ran swiftly through a field whim, and so not a wood, where no not could follow him, for he ran swiftly through a field whim, and so not a wood, where no not could fall whim, for he ran swiftly through a field whim

he played the minne-lieder of the north, been many townicts and few castles, of Hildebrand and Brunhild and Siegfriend, and all the strength and beauty of the land of Almain. To this Sir Nigel answered with the romances of Sir Eglamour, and of Sir laumbras, and so through the long winter night they sat by the crackling wood-fire answering each other's songs until the crowing cocks joined in their concert. Yet, with scarce an hour of rest, Sir Nigel was as bitthe and bright as ever as they set forth after breakfast upon their way.

"This Sir Gaston is a very worthy man," said he to his squires as they rode from the "Baton Rouge." "He hath a very strong desire to advance himself, and would have entered upon some small knightly debate with me, had he not and of Sir laumbras, and so

and would have entered upon some smain knightly debate with me, had he not chanced to have his arm-bone broken by the kick of a horse. I have conceived a great love for him, and I have promised him that when his bone is mended I will exchange thrusts with him. But we must keep to this road upon the left."

left."
"Nay, my fair lord," quoth Aylward.
"The road to Montaubon is over the
river, and so through Quercy and the

Agencis."

"True, my good Aylward; but I have learned from this worthy knight, who hath come over the French marches, that there is a company of Englishmen who are burning and plundering in the country round Villefranche. I have little doubt, from what he says, that they are those whom we seek."

"By my hilt! it is like enough," gaid Aylward. "By all accounts they had been so long ats Montaubon, that there would be little there worth the taking. Then, as they have already been in the south, they would come north to the country of the Aveyron."

as they nave aiready open in the sountry of the Aveyron."

"We shall follow the Lot until we come to Cahors, and then cross the marches into Villefranche," said Sir Nigel. "By St. Faul! as we are but a small band, it is very likely that we may have some very honorable and pleasing adventure, for I hear that there is little peace upon the French border."

All morning they rode down a broad and winding road, barred with the shadows of poplars. Sir Nigel rode in front with his squires, while the two archers followed behind with the sumpter mule between them. They had left Aigillon and the Garonne far to the south, and rode now by the tranquil Lot, which curves blue and placid through a gently rolling country. Alleyne could not but mark that, whereas in Guienne there had

castles and few houser. On either hand gray walls and square, grim keeps peeped out at every few miles from amid the forests, while the few villages which they passed were all ringfled round with rude walls, which all ringfied round with rude walls, which spoke of the constant fear and sudden foray of a wild frontier land. Twice during the morning there came bands of horsemen swooping down upon them from the black gateways of wayside strong-holds, with short, stern questions as to whence they came and what their errand. Bands of armed men clanked along the highway, and the few lines of laden mules which carried the merchandise of the trader were guarded by armed variets, or by archers hired for the service.

"The peace of Britishy hath not made much change in these parts," quoth Sir Nigel, "for the country is overrun with

much change in these parts, quoti sir Nigel, "for the country is overrun with free companions and masterless men-Yonder lowers, between the wood and the bill, mark the town of Cahors, and beyond it is the land of France. But here

the bill, mark the town of Cahors, and beyond it is the land of France. But here is a man by the wayside, and as he hath two horses and a 'squire I make little doubt that he is a knight. I pray you, Alleyne, to give him greating from me, and to ask him for his titles and coatarmor. It may be that I can relieve him of some yow, or perchance he hath a lady whom he would wish to advance," "Nay, my tair lord," said Alleyene, "these are not horses and a squire, but mules and a variet. The man is a mercer, for he hath a great bundle beside him." "Now, God's blessing on your honest English voice!" cried the stranger, pricking up his ears at the sound of Alleyne's words. "Never have I heard muste that was so sweet to mine ear. Come Waikin lad, throw the bales over Laura's back! My heart was nigh broke, for it seemed that I had left all that was English behind me, and that I would never set eyes upon Norwich market square again." He was a tall, lusty, middle-aged man with a ruddy face, a thrown forked beard shot with gray, and a broad Flanders hat set at the back of his head. His servant, as tall as himbrown forked beard shot with gray, and a broad Flanders hat set at the back of his head. His servant, as tall as himself, but gaunt and raw-boned, had swung the bales on the back of one mule, while the merchant mounted upon the other and rode to join the party. It was easy to see, as he approached from the quality of his dress and the richness of his trappings, that he was a man of some wealth and position.

(To be Continued To-morrow.)

mark that, whereas in Guienno there had

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